

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

Please amend the abstract as follows:

~~To lower the energy demand for melting in a unit with cooled walls, the invention provides a~~ A ~~method for melting inorganic materials, preferably glasses and glass-ceramics, in a melting unit with cooled walls, in which method is provided. The method includes selecting~~ the temperature of at least one region of the melt is selected in such a way as to be in a range from $T_{\text{eff}} - 20\%$ to $T_{\text{eff}} + 20\%$, where the temperature T_{eff} is given by the temperature at which the energy consumption per unit weight of the material to be melted is at a minimum, with the throughput having been selected in such a way as to be suitably adapted to the required residence time.